

Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 DHA-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 /054 W

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R 172157Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2923

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 2519

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV PINT HA

SUBJ: SICLAIT ASSETS SEIZED

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 2508

1. PRESIDENT DUVALIER DIRECTED ON SEPTEMBER 16
THAT THE ASSETS OF HENRI SICLAIT BE SEIZED. CITING

LEGAL SANCTIONS AGAINST "ILLEGAL ENRICHMENT AT THE EXPENSE OF PUBLIC FUNDS", THE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE SAID THAT SICLAIT'S SCANDALOUS OPULENCE CONTRASTED WITH THE RESOURCES PROVIDED BY HIS SALARY.

2. THE DECREE SPECIFIED THAT ALL OF THE PERSONAL PROPERTY AND REAL ESTATE BELONGING TO THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE REGIE DU TABAC, HENRI SICLAIT, ARE AND REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE STATE, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO FURTHER LEGAL ACTION".

3. WHILE THE EXTENT OF SICLAIT'S WEALTH IS NOT KNOWN, THE ASSETS NOW BEING SEIZED PROBABLY ARE WORTH SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS. SICLAIT WAS FOND OF REAL ESTATE AND HAD NUMEROUS HOUSES IN PORT AU PRINCE AND ELSEWHERE. HE IS KNOWN TO HAVE EXTENSIVE BUSINESS INVESTMENTS, MOST OF WHICH WERE CONTROLLED THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES.

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4. COMMENT: DUVALIER'S VIGOROUS ACTION IN SEIZING
SICLAIT'S ASSETS AND FIRING HIS ASSOCIATES IS AN
INTERESTING CONTRAST WITH HIS ACTION AGAINST FORMER
MINISTER OF INTERIOR, LUCKNER CAMBRONNE. WHEN
CAMBRONNE WAS FIRED IN 1972, FEW OF HIS ASSOCIATES
WERE SERIOUSLY INCONVENIENCED AND HE STILL HAS
NUMEROUS BUSINESSES IN HAITI.
ISHAM

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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